

Farallones Light House Aug 15th 1858

Dear Brother Horace

Your letter of July 1st was sent out to me a few days ago by Lodowick and I can assure you I was glad to hear from you as I always am to hear from home.

Since I wrote you last I have been to town spending the Fourth with Lod and settling up the accounts of the Light House for the last fiscal year. The late Keeper was a very ignorant man and the accounts were all hurly-burly. but they are straight now and correct up to the close of the fiscal year (30th June.) We have been having beautiful weather (for the Farallones) for several days past and Mr Maynard (1st Asst) and I have been making us a little skiff to pull aboard of the fishing boats that come here to get our letters &c We are considerably bothered about getting news here as it is very difficult to land. The Island as you are perhaps aware is a high rugged and barren mass of rocks in the open ocean. There are but two places where you can land at all and then only with a small boat and in smooth weather. I have written to the Inspector at San Francisco (who has charge of the Lighthouse on the Pacific coast) and he writes me that he will have a boat as I recommended and also endeavor to make arrangements with some one to come out here twice a month. There has never been any regular communication with the city except by the boat which brings out our provisions once in 3 months and the reason has been that the late keeper in the first place could hardly write an intelligible letter and furthermore if he asked for anything more than the regular supply of oil &c for the Light He was afraid he would be blamed for being too expensive but the case is exactly the opposite for since I have stated the facts to Maj Bache (the inspector) he has been very much blamed for not applying to the department for such things as were needed. and Maj B told me that he took a great interest in our Light &c (as it is the best and most important on the whole Pacific coast and also the most isolated) and would do all in his power to make us as comfortable as possible. so I hope in future we shall not be bothered so much about getting our letters. My eyes have not got well yet but they are much better and I hope they will not plague me much longer I am sorry to hear that yours are so bad and I dont understand the cause of it. I do not think it is from hereditary causes and am inclined to believe it is caused partially if not wholly from an impure state of the blood. I am now taking some syrup for my blood (which I know is impure) and also using Thompsons Eye Water. I reduce it one-half and put a few drops in my eyes every night when I go to bed and it has helped me much but I expect one great reason why yours are so much inflamed is looking at the "female form divine" I presume my eyes would be worse than they are now if I could be at home this winter and go to a few parties and school exhibitions. A great trouble to us are they not, these women,

"in our hours of ease,

Uncertain coy and hard to please.

when pain and sickness rend the brow

A ministering angel thou" with this addition which is perhaps true in many cases,

"Striving by every art to rule,"

"Stubborn as any pig or mule."

But seriously, Horace, you must be careful of your eyes and not allow yourself to read much and none at all by candle light for that is one of the very worst things for weak eyes.

I was greatly surprized to hear of the efforts you were making in my behalf at the "lane" and I earnestly hope that no blame may attach to you for the course you have pursued and my only fear is that she or her parents may possibly surmise that it was contrived or that Lod's letter was written "expressly for the occasion," and sooner than you should be blamed by them for adopting the course you did to sustain the character of a brother I would deliberately renounce all claims which I may have, or ever hope to have for her friendship and esteem and meet her if ever we should meet as an entire stranger. But I sincerely hope that the explanations you made her may be satisfactory to her mind, and that you may not fall in her esteem for displaying a brothers interest of one whose character and reputation had been well nigh ruined in the esteem of her who is as dear to him as life itself.

It was a very delicate business you were engaged in and I do not wonder you felt somewhat embarrassed and also herself and were she not one of the noblest of women she would not have deigned to receive the proffered letter and explanations but you would have met with a reception not to be misunderstood. I have always loved her since we first became acquainted and my heart tells me I always shall no matter what our future lot may be and should Providence direct that we never meet again. I shall love her with my last thoughts. She once loved me as she will never love another of that I am as confident as I am that I am writing it, but whether she loves me at this time is a question which time must determine. When I was with her I was wild & wayward and hardly knew what love was but the sober second thoughts mingling through years of absence and bitter sorrow have revealed to me her character and worth and my own folly and unworthiness. The time is yet distant when I hope to see you all but a light heart & fair prospects will make it fly more swiftly and "all go merry as a marriage bell."

I have not answered Lemuel's letter yet, but will endeavor too soon, I write but very little on account of my eyes. The Light here is bad for them and I must therefore be as careful as possible, for I want to hold my present position until I am ready for home. Write me often and should you hear any news from below "herein fail not, but due service and return make."

Give my love to all the family and particularly to little Lydia and believe me as ever

Your affectionate brother

Amos